



FAROUT FAIRY TALES




HANSEL & GRETEL & ZOMBIES

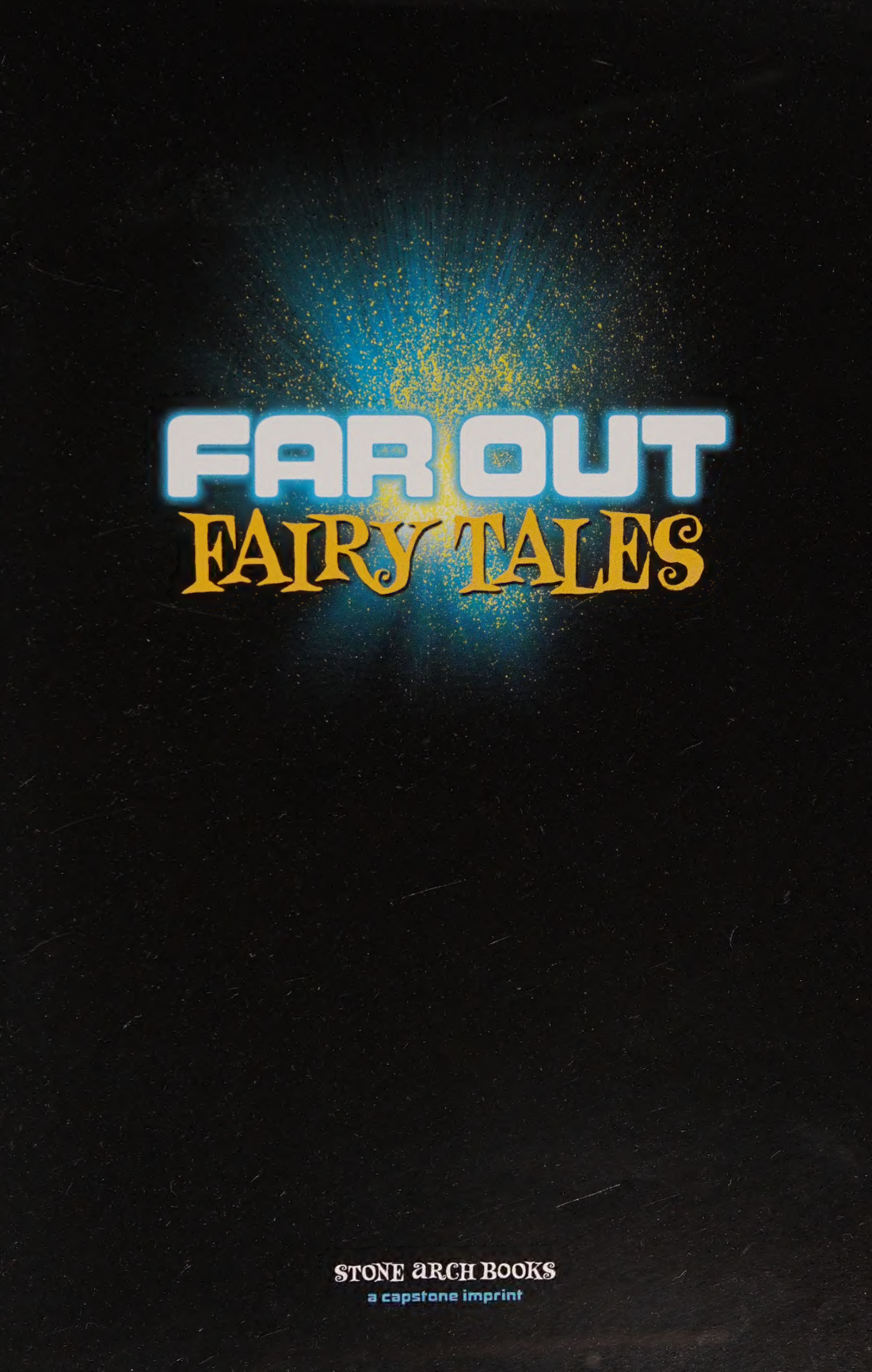


A GRAPHIC NOVEL

BY
BENJAMIN HARPER
ILLUSTRATED BY FERNANDO CANO



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FAR OUT FAIRY TALES

STONE ARCH BOOKS
a capstone imprint

INTRODUCING...



HANSEL & GRETEL

MR. UNDEAD

MRS. UNDEAD



MS. WITCH

in...

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Summary: The Undead Family is out of
brains to eat! Tourists have stopped
visiting their home--a graveyard--for
some time now, and the zombie family
is starving. So they venture into the
Magical Forest disguised as tourists,
hoping to lure humans to an early
grave! Unfortunately, an evil witch
has other plans for the crepescular
kiddies . . .

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A GRAPHIC NOVEL

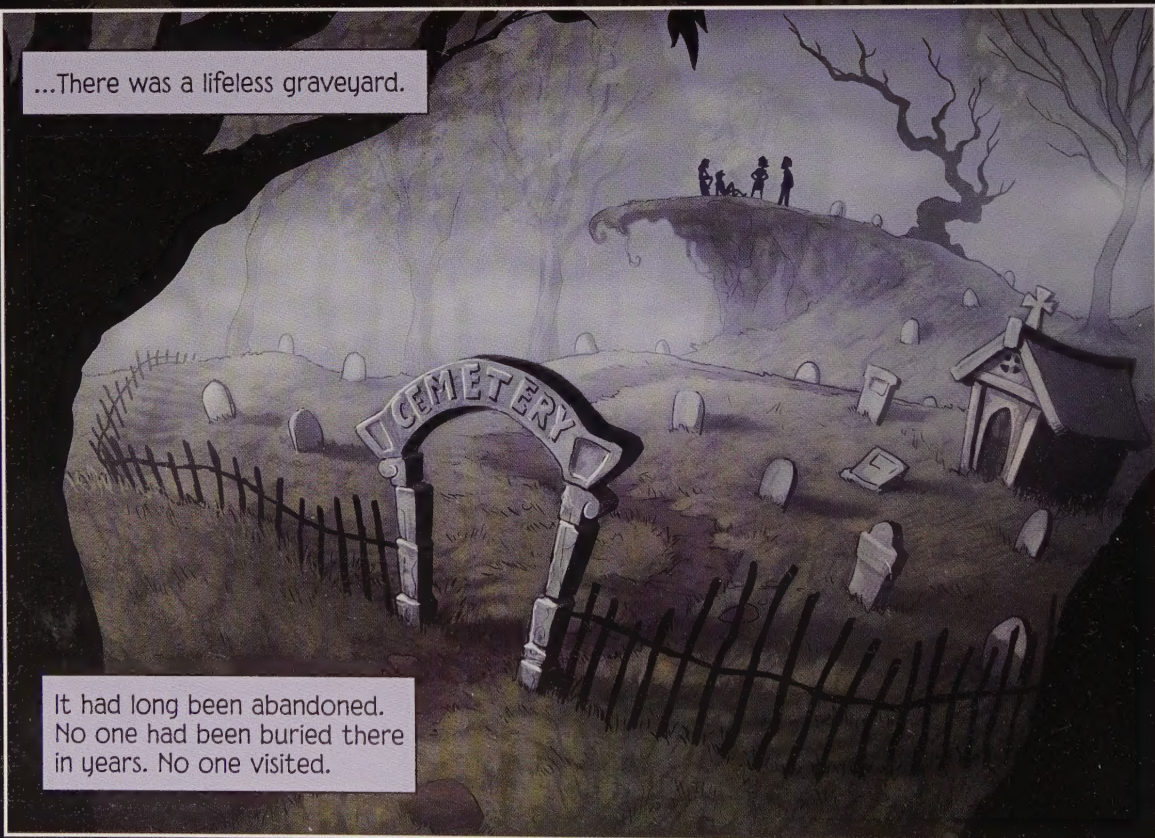
WITHDRAWN
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BY BENJAMIN HARPER
ILLUSTRATED BY FERNANDO CANO

Once upon a time, in a distant corner of the Magical Forest...



...There was a lifeless graveyard.



It had long been abandoned.
No one had been buried there
in years. No one visited.

Mr. and Mrs. Zombie and their children, Hansel and Gretel, were the only ones "living" there.





I'VE GOT IT!



FIRST, WE'LL DRESS UP THE CHILDREN TO MAKE THEM LOOK HUMAN.



THEN WE'LL SEND THEM OUT TO THE MAGICAL FOREST.

THEY'LL PRETEND TO BE LOST, AND BEG TOURISTS TO HELP THEM FIND THEIR WAY HOME--



--AND WHEN THE HELPFUL TOURISTS BRING HANSEL AND GRETEL BACK, THEIR BRAINS WILL BE OURS!

EXACTLY.

WELL,
HUSBAND?
WHAT DO
YOU THINK?

THEY LOOK
HORRIFYING!

GREAT
WORK, MY
DEAR.



WELL,
CHILDREN, OFF
YOU GO! GOOD
LUCK ON YOUR
JOURNEY.

BRING
US BACK SOME
PLUMP AND JUICY
TOURISTS!

SIGH. THIS
PLACE MAKES
ME FEEL ILL.

BEAT IT!

OKAY,
LET'S GET INTO
CHARACTER.

THE SOONER
WE TRICK SOME
TOURISTS, THE FASTER
WE CAN GET OUT
OF THIS PLACE.



OH, WE
ARE SO LOST AND
ALONE! WHATEVER
WILL WE DO?!

PLEASE, WON'T
SOMEONE HELP US
FIND OUR WAY HOME?
WE ARE SO
FRIGHTENED!



Two little,
lost children?
Just what I've
been waiting
for!

I have to
get home and
prepare for their
arrival...

Later, deep in the
Magical Forest...

Time
to flip this
place!

Oh, how
fun it is to be
redecorating my
home once
again!

GUMDROPPS! **WOOOSH!**
FROSTING! **SNOWOSH!** **WOOOSH!**
SNOWOSH!



There!
All done.

Now to
wait for those
little brats to come
calling and fall into
my delicious
trap...

Satisfied with her trap, Mrs. Witch went back inside to prepare for the children's arrival.

Where is it, where is it...





WHAT DO
YOU THINK
IT IS?

I DON'T
KNOW! BUT
IT SMELLS
AWFUL.



HELLO?
WE ARE EVER
SO LOST AND
VULNERABLE!

Sigh. It seems
I'm going to have
to play the part if I
want my dinner any
time soon...

Poof

A few moments later...

Yoo-hoo,
little boy and
little girl!



What are
you delightful
children doing alone
in the woods? You
must be ever so
hungry...

WHAT DO
YOU THINK? WILL
MOM AND DAD
BE **HAPPY** WITH
HER?

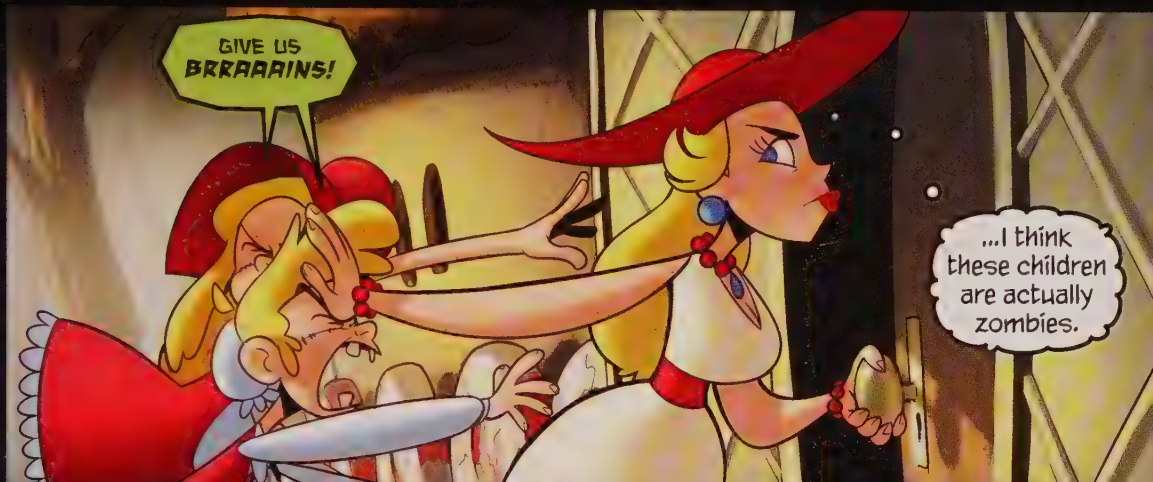
SHE'LL
DO!





BRRRAAINS!





WOOSH

With a little luck, I can still make a meal out of these undead urchins...

WOOSH

Ribbit!


I know that recipe is around here somewhere...

Here it is: "Undead Upside-Down Cake!"

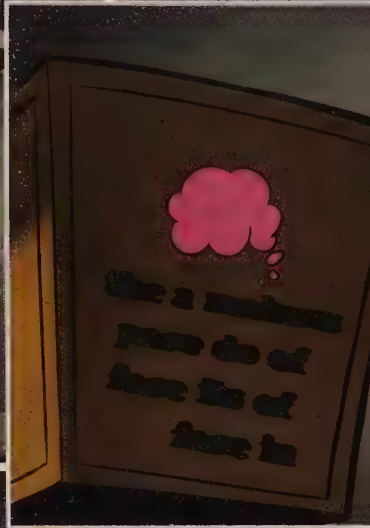
I will need:
3 rotten apples,
1 pinch of goiter dust,
1 cup of pond scum,
2 fresh slug trails...

...and 1 zombie!

Then...



I knew
this would
come in handy
someday.



Oh, dear,
what will I do
with this big box of
brains I just got
from Witches
Express?



I simply
can't eat
them all
myself...

WHAM!

BRRRAAINS!



The brains are in there, children.



ME FIRST! BRAINS!!

NO-- ME FIRST! MINE!!



Manners, please! One at a time.

NO FAIR! HE ALWAYS GETS TO EAT FIRST.



GULP!

SLAM



HEY, LET ME OUT OF HERE!

Hee-hee-hee! You're all mine now, boy!

Mrs. Witch chained Gretel to the cage and made her do all the chores.

HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP US HERE?

LADY, THIS IS SO BORING. WHEN CAN I STOP?

Hush, children. You'll find out soon enough. Now keep scrubbing!

Gretel mowed the lawn...



...While Hansel continued to eat.



Gretel fixed the Witch's electrical wiring...



...while Hansel ate and ate and ate.



Meanwhile, Mrs. Witch worked on her tan.

Ahhhhh.
This is the
life.

Back in the lonely graveyard, Mr. and Mrs. Zombie waited and waited.

WHY
AREN'T THEY
BACK YET?


I DON'T
KNOW, BUT I'M
WORRIED.

WE NEED
TO GO FIND
THEM.


So Mr. and Mrs. Zombie set
off into the Magical Forest
to find their missing children.

GRETEL!

HANSEL!




Yawn. I suppose I should check on my undead urchins.




Just look how plump your brother is!

PLEASE...
NO MORE...
BRAINS!



WHEN WILL I GET SOMETHING TO EAT?

Soon, my child, soon. But for now, peel those apples while I get the goiter dust.



Are you done peeling those apples yet, child?

YES, MRS. WITCH... BUT I'M DYING TO EAT SOMETHING.



Fine. Get
in there and
light the
oven, then.

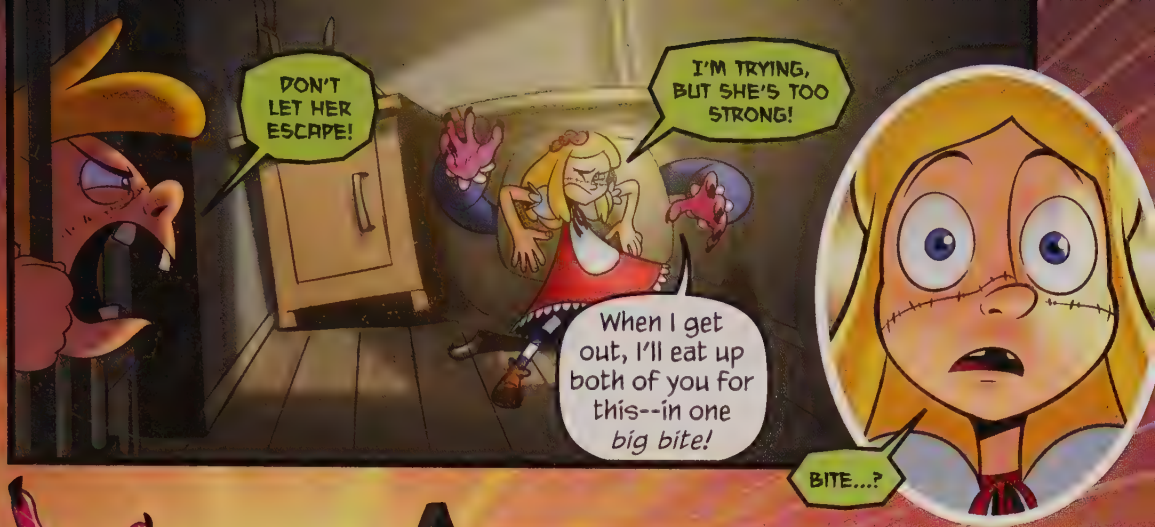
Gretel had a feeling her fate
would be similar to her brother's
if she climbed inside...



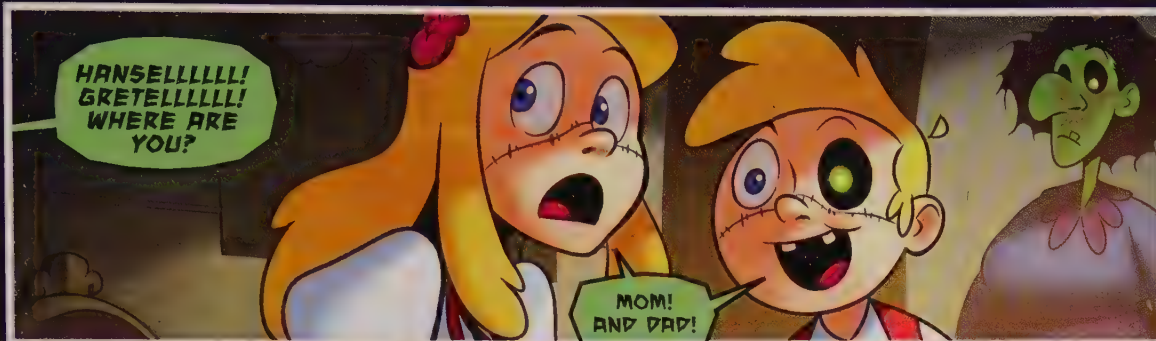
...so she wracked her undead
brain for a way out.











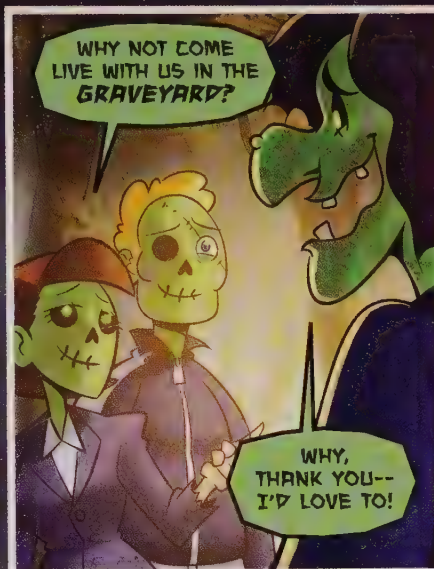
HANSELLLLLL!
GRETELLLLL!
WHERE ARE
YOU?

MOM!
AND DAD!



I'M SO
HAPPY FOR YOU
ALL. YOU'RE SUCH
A BEAUTIFUL
FAMILY.

I'VE
NEVER HAD
A FAMILY OF
MY OWN...



WHY NOT COME
LIVE WITH US IN THE
GRAVEYARD?

WHY,
THANK YOU--
I'D LOVE TO!



THANKS
AGAIN FOR ALL THE
SOY-BRAINS!

OH, IT WAS
NOTHING. I GET
A BULK DISCOUNT
AT WITCH
EXPRESS.

And they "lived"
happily ever after.

(No, really--forever. You
know, because they're
zombies. They can't very
well die *again*, can they?)

The End.

ALL ABOUT THE ORIGINAL TALE!

Zombies
didn't appear in
the original Brothers Grimm
version of "Hansel and Gretel."
However, Hansel and Gretel's
parents were pretty *monstrous*.

You see, they tried not once--but twice--to abandon their children in the forest so they couldn't return home. The parents succeeded the second time, leaving Hansel and Gretel lost in the woods. In fact, their mother was so monstrous that she led them even farther into the woods, ensuring they would never find their way home.

Lost and alone in the woods, Hansel and Gretel wandered aimlessly until they felt the need to lay down and sleep. Several days passed like this, until they grew so hungry they could scarcely bear it. However, they soon came upon a strange sight: a house's walls made entirely of bread, and the roof was made of cakes and other sweets.

The siblings, desperately hungry at this point, started snacking on the gingerbread house. Soon, the house's owner spotted them and welcomed them inside. To their surprise, the woman turned out to be a hungry witch who eats children!

The witch plumped up Hansel, hoping to make him nice and fat so he would be a bigger meal for her to eat. Meanwhile, the witch forced Gretel to work--and fed her nothing but crab shells.

One morning, the witch told Gretel to climb inside the hot oven to see if it was warm enough to bake bread. Gretel knew the witch was up to something, so she asked her to climb inside instead--and kicked the witch into the oven. She was never seen again.

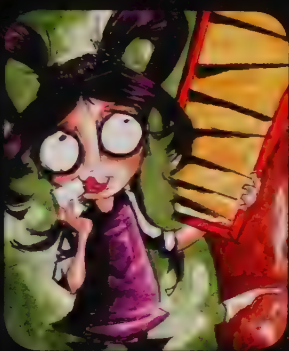
Gretel freed her brother. In a room next to the kitchen, they found boxes of precious gems! When they finally found their way home, they discovered their father alone.

While they'd been gone, their evil mother had died. Gretel tugged on her apron, releasing all the gems. The three of them lived richly and happily ever after.

A FAR OUT GUIDE TO HANSEL & GRETEL'S TALE TWISTS!



Two innocent, human siblings star in the original tale. In this version, they're zombies!



Hansel & Gretel get nabbed by the witch when they nibble on her house. Zombie Hansel & Gretel get kidnapped because they *won't* eat the candy-house!



In the original tale, a witch tries to eat the children, but they burn her to cinders. (Yikes!) In this book, Zombie Gretel bites the witch, transforming her into one of them!



In the Brothers Grimm version of the story, the mother and the witch die. But in this far out version, everyone lives happily ever after--even the witch!

VISUAL QUESTIONS

Hansel and Gretel have green speech bubbles. The Witch has normal speech bubbles (white ones). Why do you think their speech bubbles look different?

BRAINS!
WE WANT
BRAINS!

Hmm...

GIVE US
BRRAAAINS!

...I think
these children
are actually
zombies.

What is happening to the
Witch here? Why is her
speech bubble changing?
Explain your answer.

What...what
have you done?
You--you've
**TURNED ME
INTO...**

3

WELL,
HUSBAND?
WHAT DO
YOU THINK?

THEY LOOK
HORRIFYING!

GREAT
WORK, MY
DEAR.

Why did Mr. Undead say his children look "horrifying" when they are dressed up like normal human children?

IDEA!

4



The word "IDEA!" is a sound effect, or SFX. Find a few SFX in this book. How are they used differently? Which SFX is your favorite?

5

I'VE
GOT IT!



Why is there a broken light bulb over Mrs. Undead's head? What does it mean?

AUTHOR

Benjamin Harper has worked as an editor at Lucasfilm LTD. and DC Comics. He currently works at Warner Bros. Consumer Products in Burbank, California. He has written many books, including *Obsessed With Star Wars* and *Thank You, Superman!*

ILLUSTRATOR

Fernando Cano is an illustrator born in Mexico City, Mexico. He currently resides in Monterrey, Mexico, where he makes a living as an illustrator and colorist. He has done work for Marvel, DC Comics, and role-playing games like Pathfinder from Paizo Publishing. In his spare time, he enjoys hanging out with friends, singing, rowing, and drawing!

GLOSSARY

abandoned (uh-BAN-duhnd)--left behind without needed protection or care

character (KAYR-ik-tur)--if someone is playing a character, they pretend to be someone other than who they are

goiter (GOY-ter)--a swelling on the front of the neck

horrifying (HAWR-uh-fye-ing)--causing someone to feel horror, shock, or upset

journey (JUR-nee)--an act of traveling from one place to another, often to an undetermined location

soy (SOY)--soybeans and the food products that are made from soybeans. Many vegetarian foods are made from soy.

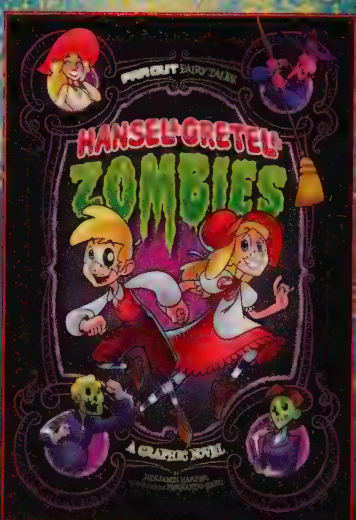
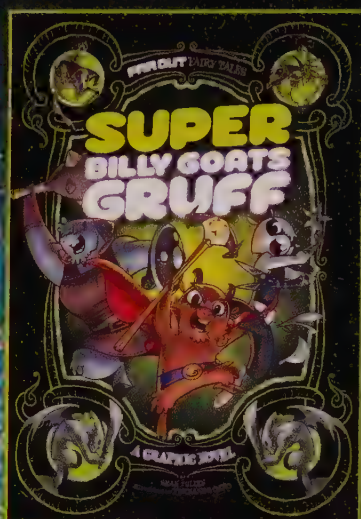
undead (uhn-DED)--no longer alive but still able to move around

urchins (UR-chinz)--an old-fashioned name for children that are poor, dirty, annoying, or likely to cause trouble

vulnerable (VUHL-ner-uh-buhl)--easily hurt or harmed physically, mentally, or emotionally

zombie (ZOM-bee)--a dead person who is able to move because of magical means

AWESOMELY EVER AFTER.



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FAR OUT FAIRY TALES



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far out series of full-color comic books for kids!



**SUPER
BILLY GOATS
GRUFF**

**HANSEL & GRETEL &
ZOMBIES**

**SNOW
WHITE**
AND THE
SEVEN ROBOTS

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